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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,439	12/05/2003	Jay S. Walker	3718582-00305	2150
29159	7590	03/19/2010		
K&L Gates LLP P.O. Box 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690			EXAMINER SAGER, MARK ALAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/19/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

chicago.patents@klgates.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/729,439	Applicant(s) WALKER ET AL.	
	Examiner M. Sager	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 39-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 39-55, 58, 59, 62, 63 and 66-74 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 56, 57, 60, 61, 64 and 65 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 39-55, 58-59, 62-63 and 66-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. As per decision of Bilski, any invention having a claimed method that is neither tied to another statutory category nor transforms underlying subject matter to another state or thing is non-statutory. The facts of this application coincide with the facts of *In re Bilski* in that the claimed structure 'at a gaming device' is nominal reference to location, 'enabling/disabling a cash-out mechanism' is a signal with nominal reference of environment of use in that the cash-out mechanism is not performing any function or performing any action, 'causing... to output the indication' (claim 41) is a signal, 'receiving via an input device of the gaming device an authorization code' (claim 45-46) is a signal, 'receiving from a computing device an approval of the loan request' (claim 47) is a signal, 'transmitting to the computing device an identifier' (claim 48) is a signal, 'receiving from the player an identifier' (claim 49) is a signal, 'receiving from the computing device a direction to prompt the player' (claim 50) is a signal, receiving the identifier and transmitting the further identifier' (claim 52) is both signals, 'receiving from the computing device (claim 54) is a signal, establishing... a balance of credits (claim 55) is a signal and similar nominal reference throughout, thus, this invention claims non-statutory subject matter. Diamond v Diehr, 450 USPQ2d 175, 184 (1981). In re Bilski, 545 F.3d 943, 88 USPQ2d 1385 (Fed Cir 2008). See MPEP 2106.

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Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 39-55, 58-59, 62-63 and 66-74 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

4. Applicant's arguments, see remarks on pages 8-12, filed 10/23/09, with respect to enabling/disabling of cash-out mechanism feature not taught by prior art have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 56-57, 60-61, 64 and 65 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Sager whose telephone number is 571-272-4454. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F, 0700-1730 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. Sager/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714